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POWER OUTAGE SHUTS HEATHROW AIRPORT

London's Heathrow Airport shuttered on Friday after a fire broke out at a substation serving the aviation hub, leading to the cancellation of at least 1,350 flights. The impact is likely to last several days. London's Metropolitan Police force said there was no indication of foul play. The airline industry trade association said the shutdown was a planning failure | AP | P14

NEET TOPPERS-2024

VINAYKUMAR K. NEET SCORE 705 BMC, B'lore

PANCHAKSHARI NEET SCORE 700 BMC, B'lore

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ANNOUNCES

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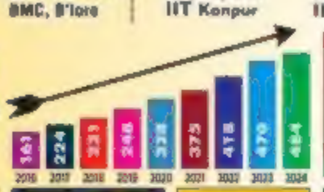

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Aims to stymie the ongoing language row

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

IN a fillip to linguistic diversity, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said his office will begin official correspondence with Chief Ministers, Members of Parliament (MPs), and citizens in their respective state languages starting December this year. The move aims to promote inclusivity and quell allegations of language imposition.

Shah made this statement in the Rajya Sabha during a discussion on the Ministry of Home Affairs' functioning. He informed the House that a new department for Indian languages has been established under the *Raajbhasha Vibhaag* (Department of Official Language) in the home ministry.

"I want to say this so that those who want to divide the country in the name of language do not get an agenda. The Modi government has established a department for Indian languages, which is working on promoting all Indian languages. Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi... every language has been included. There will be apps for translation too," he said.

In a broadside on the Tamil Nadu government, Shah claimed TN was diverting attention from issues of corruption by raising the language pitch.

"We will expose you... To those who use language as a shield for their scams, let me make it clear now that every language is important. How can we be opposed to Southern languages when we ourselves belong to different states? Nirmala Sitharaman comes from Tamil Nadu and I come from Gujarat," Shah said.

His statement comes amid the raging dispute between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre over the implementation of the new National Education Policy and the three-language formula proposed under it.

LACK OF LAND

L&T wants to pull out of Bengaluru suburban rail project?

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE much-delayed Rs 15,767-crore Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP), may face further delays. Lack of available land has forced Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) to urge the BSRP's nodal agency for implementing the project, Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), to be relieved of its contractual obligations of developing Corridor-2, which is planned between Baiyappanahalli and Chikkabanavara.

The 27-month contract period awarded for L&T to complete the job expired three months ago. The company has demanded a compensation of Rs 500 crore for the loss it has incurred due to delays in handover of land to develop BSRP's Corridor-2. This has forced works to come to a standstill a fortnight ago, sources have confirmed.

Corridor-2 — known as Mallige Corridor — which runs to 25.01 km, and the 46.24 km Corridor-4 (Heelalige-Yelahanka-Rajanakunte line) — Kanaka corridor — have both been contracted to L&T. These are part of the total 148.17-km BSRP. The tendering process has not begun for the other two corridors Corridor-1 from KSR Bengaluru City to Airport and Corridor 3 from Kengeri to Whitefield.

Corridor-2 requires 91.5 acres of land, of which 28.56 acres is private land, while Corridor-4 requires 160.56 acres of which 40.29 acres is private land. L&T sources told *TNIE*, "The non-handover of land and non-shifting of utilities is a big problem we are facing. Wherever we have got the land, we have completed the works. Even on Corridor-4 we have completed bridges near Heelalige." P2

18 BJP MLAs suspended over 'honey trap' chaos

Marshalls carry away BJP MLAs for creating chaos during the session in the Assembly on Friday | EXPRESS

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE 15-day budget session ended here on Friday on a bitter note with Assembly Speaker UT Khader suspending 18 BJP MLAs for six months for showing disrespect to his chair during a heated debate on the alleged honey trap attempt on Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna.

The Council too witnessed pandemonium with Opposition legislators attacking the government over the issue and 4% reservation for Muslims in contracts for government's civil works.

In the Assembly, BJP MLAs led by Leader of Opposition R Ashoka stormed into the Well protesting against the suspension of 18 legislators from their party, who were carried away by the marshalls amid noisy scenes.

"Since they showed disrespect to the constitutional chair, I acted to protect its dignity," Khader told reporters, defending his action. P4

IPL TURNS 18

THE 2025 EDITION OF THE BIGGEST T20 LEAGUE GETS UNDERWAY ON SATURDAY

The ten-team franchise league has come a long way over the past 17 years. In the opening game of the 18th season, which will see 74 games played across 64 days, RCB take on defending champs KKR at the Eden Gardens | P17

EXPRESS READ

Karnataka bandh today, but it could be biz as usual

Bengaluru: Karnataka bandh called on Saturday is likely to receive a poor response, as various organisations have extended only moral support to it, and decided to run their businesses as usual. However, cabs and autorickshaws may remain off the roads in a few districts, including Bengaluru. As government offices, banks and many private companies are closed on account of fourth Saturday, the bandh is likely to have little effect on normal life. Schools and colleges will remain open | P2

In-house probe against Delhi HC judge over 'cash discovery'

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court Collegium is considering a proposal to transfer **Justice Yashwant Varma** of the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court following allegations of discovery of cash from his official residence.

According to reports, a huge pile of cash was spotted by fire and rescue personnel who were called to douse a fire at the judge's house on March 14.

The judge was not in the house then. In a statement issued late on Friday, the Supreme Court said upon receiving information, Delhi High Court chief justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya had initiated an in-house inquiry and the report would be submitted to the Chief Justice of India.

It also sought to clarify that the proposal seeking transfer of the judge was separate from the in-house inquiry procedure. "The report will be examined and processed for further and necessary action," it said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg claimed on Friday night that his department had not found any cash at the judge's residence.

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